



Epiphany of Our Lord Catholic Church

6596 Smiley Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63139

STAFF

Pastor

The Rev. Michael Rennie
michaelrennier@gmail.com

Deacon

James Tetreault
jtetreaultepiphany@gmail.com

Music Director

Elizabeth Wildman

Plant Manager

John Ellison
johnellison11@aol.com

Parish Secretary

Trish Nerviani
trishnerviani@aol.com

MASS & SACRAMENTS

Sunday Masses: 8:00 & 10:30 am

Weekday Masses

Monday through Friday: 8:00 am

Tuesday Evening Mass: 6:30 pm

Saturday Masses 8:00 am and 5:00 pm

Sacrament of Penance:

Saturday, 7:30-7:50 am

Sundays, 10-10:20 am

Tuesdays, 6-6:20 pm OR by appointment

Baptisms: Meeting first Thursday of the month. Preregistration required.

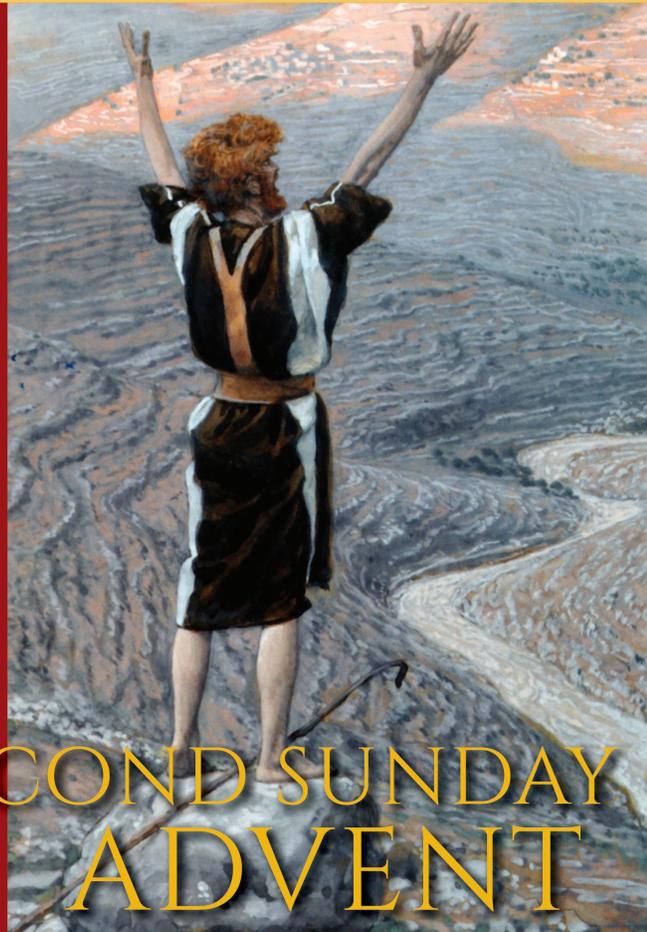
Marriages: Contact the priest at least 9 months prior to the wedding date.

Funerals: To be arranged by contacting the Parish Office.

Change of Address or Telephone

Number: Please call the Parish Office.

Bulletin Deadline: 4:00 pm Monday.



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

BEHOLD, I AM SENDING MY MESSENGER AHEAD OF YOU;
HE WILL PREPARE YOUR WAY.

A VOICE OF ONE CRYING OUT IN THE DESERT:
"PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD,
MAKE STRAIGHT HIS PATHS."

— Mk 1:2b-3

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Second Sunday of Advent December 10, 2017

Phone: 314-781-1199

www.epiphanystl.org

LIVING OUR FAITH

FROM THE DESK OF FR. MICHAEL

Thank you to everyone who picked up your stewardship newsletter and took the time to look through it and plan your giving for the next year. Epiphany is a wonderful, encouraging place to be and I thank God every day that I get to be here. The reason it is so wonderful is because of all the generosity and commitment of you all.

Rorate Caeli Mass, St. Lucy Procession, and Advent Celebration everyone is welcome to join in and celebrate a Rorate Caeli Mass at 6:30pm, Tuesday December 19. A Rorate Mass is a votive Mass to the Blessed Virgin that is offered during Advent only by candlelight. It's a beautiful experience to see the altar lit up by candles and remember that even in the darkest nights of winter Our Lord is the light of the world. I highly encourage everyone to attend!

Directly after the Mass we will have a candlelight procession in honor of St. Lucy, whose feast day is in December, and end with an Advent Party in the Assumption room. If you plan to attend the party, we only ask that you bring a plate of Christmas Cookies before Mass to the Assumption Room.

Breviary Coffee is ready for everyone who pre-ordered. You can pick it up in the back of Church after masses this weekend. Each bag is \$7 and the purchase benefits our St. Vincent de Paul food pantry.

Mass Explanations - How to Go to Confession

Advent is here! It's a season of expectation and hope, a time of waiting for the arrival of Our Lord at Christmas, and also a time of penance as we prepare our hearts to receive Him (this is why the priest and deacon wear purple). I encourage you to come to confession soon, especially if it's been a while since your last confession.

Some people are nervous and don't remember what to say or how to list their sins. Here are a few basic tips to help ease your nerves. The Confessional at Epiphany has 2 Red Lights (no Green). When 1 light is on that means a priest is there and available. 2 lights on means someone is currently making a confession. When you come in, kneel at the screen, or sit in the chair if kneeling is difficult, and begin by telling the priest how long it's been since your last confession, then list all the sins you've thought of from your examination of conscience beforehand. The priest will give you a penance and ask you to pray the Act of Contrition. If you've forgotten this prayer, it's printed out and available in the confessional, all you need to do is read it. And that's about it!

Confession is easy, but also very important because it is the place where we bring our sins to light and God decisively forgives them. It's important for you to know that if you have a mortal sin on your conscience, you should refrain from receiving communion until you go to confession (we have confession before every 10:30 Sunday Mass, so come right in!). There are good reasons for this, and I'll try to explain more in a future bulletin.

Our regular confession times are in the bulletin, but a few other opportunities are nearby, too:
St. Gabriel - Sat 4-4:45pm, Wed 6-8:30pm (during advent only)
St. Joan of Arc - Sat 3-4pm

Fr. Michael

ATTENTION EPIPHANY WOMEN OF FAITH

Please Save The Date for the 2nd Tues of each month (until May)- Our Women's Faith Sharing follows 6:30 PM Mass (7:15PM) until 8:45PM. We meet in the Rectory. Tues., Dec. 12, we will discuss 4-5 questions about "Gift" and sharing where it can be found in the Bible and the CCC (Catechism of the Catholic Church) to strengthen the foundation of our Catholic Faith. Bringing the resource books are NOT required to participate in the sharing.

Please join us when you can, even if you can't attend every Faith Gathering. There are new topics each month. Looking forward to exploring our Faith Together. Please call or text Mary Jo Martin -314-324-7224 for additional information.

Correction: Please note: The birthday Mass listed for Dorothy Rothery is incorrect. Dorothy's 90th birthday is actually on March 24, 2018. *Until then she remains 89 years young.*

Stewardship "Prepare the way of the Lord..." - MARK 1:3 We are all called to live a holy life. We are all called to invite others to live holy lives. Living a stewardship lifestyle, being grateful and generous with our gifts, does just that - it puts us on the path to holiness and it invites others to be holy, too.

Epiphany Bell Choir The bell choir is seeking one new member. No experience is necessary but ability to read music helpful. Practice is held on Wednesdays from 6:30pm to 7:30pm. If interested or would like more information please call Mary Young at 314-645-0303.



CATHOLIC CONFERENCE FOR MEN & WOMEN

REGISTER NOW!

Limited Seating Available
Touhill Performing Arts Center (UMSL)

Catholic Men for Christ Conference - Feb. 3, 2018
Featuring Curtis Martin, Fr. Godwin Olugbami, Dr. Scott Sullivan and Michael Cumbie
Visit catholicmenforchrist.org to register.

Catholic Women for Christ Conference - Saturday, March 10, 2018
Featuring Sr. Virginia Joy - Sisters of Life, Mary Beth Bonacci and Gloria Purvis
Visit catholicwomenforchrist.org to register.

Questions? Call the Office of Laity & Family Life
314.792.7183.

LIVING OUR FAITH

Pro-Life Matters

Helpers of God's Precious Infants: Established in St. Louis in January 2000, is a peaceful, prayerful life-saving ministry that meets on the third Saturday of every month.

The prayer vigil begins with 8 a.m. Mass at the Cathedral Basilica, followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, a rosary prayer procession to Planned Parenthood's local abortion facility, and Benediction upon return to the Cathedral Basilica. Those unable to process are invited to remain in Eucharistic Adoration at the Cathedral Basilica.

The December vigil will be Saturday December 16 led by Fr. Peter Fonseca, Queen of All Saints parish.

STL Young Adult Pro-Life Holy Hour & Social: Join STLYA and young adults throughout the archdiocese for this annual event on Thursday January 18 to pray for an end to abortion and promote a greater respect for all life. A speaker and social with light refreshments will follow in Boland Hall. E-mail stlya@archstl.org or call 314-792-7555 for more information.

Annual Memorial Mass: The 2018 Annual Memorial Mass will be Saturday January 27 at 10 AM at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis. Please make plans to join us in prayer and remembrance. The mass is a memorial of all the babies who have died and all those whose lives continue to be affected by the effects of abortion and *Reo v Wade*.

Hope For The Broken-Hearted: Whether you are the mom, dad, grandparent or sibling, abortion can leave a hole in the heart of any family member. Find healing for your heartache at Project Rachel and Project Joseph with free, confidential, professional counseling at 314-792-7565.

Project Rachel For more information contact Marisol 314-792-7451 mpfaff@archstl.org or STLprojectrachel.org.

Project Joseph For more information contact Chuck 314-974-6787 craymir@sbcglobal.net or STLprojectjoseph.org.

THANK YOU!

Thank you everyone who quickly adopted over 100 residents at Kasey Paige - your response was amazing!! The gifts can be dropped off to the Assumption Room on Wednesday evening, December 20th, between 6pm and 8pm. Please have your gift wrapped with a gift tag containing the name of your adopted person. If this time is not good for you, please contact Kris at 314-210-0916 or Andra at 314-807-5877 or Brian at 615-604-5433 and we will arrange another time prior to the 20th. The Christmas party is on the 21st, so we need all gifts by the 20th. Thank you for making this Christmas special for so many people!

Nursing Care & Independent Living openings at Little Sisters of the Poor Residence

Currently, the Little Sisters of the Poor have openings in both their Nursing and Independent Living Areas. A resident must be at least 65 years of age and have limited financial resources to be considered. These living arrangements offer a large single room, fully furnished, with a private bathroom. Meals, laundry and housekeeping are included in the rent. The rent is subsidized, based on income, assets and medical expenses. Private pay, long-term care insurance, and Medicaid are accepted for the Nursing Area.

The mission of the Little Sisters of the Poor is to welcome the needy elderly of any faith into their Home as they would Jesus Christ himself, and serve them with love and respect until death. If you or someone you know might be interested, please call 314-421-6022 and ask to speak to Ron Kostedt in Social Services.

Aquinas Institute of Theology's Workshop for Permanent Deacons

Workshop for Permanent Deacons - "Spirituality and the Preacher" - Date: January 27, 2018 - Time: 9:00 - 11:30 am - Cost: \$35 (wives welcome at no additional charge) - Speaker: Rev. Greg Heille, O.P., Professor of Homiletics To register or for more information see "Bookstore" on the Aquinas website: www.ai.edu or call 314-256-8804

The Advent Wreath: Ancient Symbol, Later Innovation

For many of us, it may seem as though the Advent Wreath has always been a part of the days between Thanksgiving and Christmas. After all, most of us can't recall a time when there wasn't one. Because the Advent Wreath builds on one of the most archetypal symbols of all—the circle—its more recent vintage is obscured by its ageless connections.

The circle exists as a symbol without beginning and without end. A true circle has no starting point, nowhere to begin tracing the line, and yet the line can be picked up from anywhere and completed by following it to where one began. As Heraclitus said, "The beginning and the end are one" (Fragments, 70). It is no wonder then that the circle became a symbol of divinity not only for the ancients, but for us as well. For a circle is both knowable and unknowable. It contains a truth that we can understand but that is at the same time completely beyond our understanding. If I ask you to imagine a circle, you know exactly what I mean. But the only way to measure a circle is by the use of π , an irrational number whose decimal places carry on into infinity. We can get close to completely measuring a circle, but never hit it exactly, just as we can get close to God, but never fully understand the complete mystery of the divine. Add evergreens to the circle to symbolize life and you have a wreath symbolizing the persistence of life even in the dead of winter. Add some candles and you've testified to the fact that the darkness of winter will not conquer the light, that the sun will return! So how did this ancient centerpiece of greens and candles get refashioned into the Advent Wreath we know today? As with most folk customs that are later Christianized, no one is quite sure. Some writers suggest that it may date to the seventeenth century, although actual printed descriptions don't appear until the early 1800s. At that time the Advent Wreath was used more as a catechetical tool and family devotion than in actual liturgical use.

Flower Power Got a little extra change jingling in your pocket? Why not put it in an envelope marked "Flower Power" and help defray the cost of decorating our Church! *All contributors and their loved ones listed on the envelopes will be listed in our Christmas bulletin.*

LITURGIES & SCHEDULES

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Second Sunday of Advent, December 10

8:00 am Parishioners
10:30 am Paul Gera

Monday, December 11

8:00 am Cassandra Beverly

Tuesday, December 12

8:00 am Eleanor Nazzoli
6:30 pm Sue Dockery (*Recovery*)

Wednesday, December 13

8:00 am Diane Campbell

Thursday, December 14

8:00 am Eugene Cannon

Friday, December 15

8:00 am Deceased Members of the Thien Family

Saturday, December 16

8:00 am The Casey Family
5:00 pm Shirley Nichols

Third Sunday of Advent, December 17

8:00 am Parishioners
10:30 am James Turner



OUR PARISH THIS WEEK

Monday - Saturday, December 11-16

- 7:30 am - Rosary, Church

Sunday, December 10

- 9:00 am - Bible Study, CMR
- 10:30 am - Liturgy with Children, RBB

Monday, December 11

- 7:00 am - 5:00 pm - GSA, Msgr. Sullivan Field
- 7:00 am - 5:00 pm - GSA, Gym
- 7:00 pm - Boy Scouts, Upper Hall

Tuesday, December 12

- 7:00 am - 5:00 pm - GSA, Msgr. Sullivan Field
- 7:00 am - 5:00 pm - GSA, Gym
- 10:00 am - Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, RBF
- 6:30 pm - Women of Faith, CMR
- 6:30 pm - PSR/Children's Choir, Church

Wednesday, December 13

- 7:00 am - 5:00 pm - GSA, Msgr. Sullivan Field
- 7:00 am - 5:00 pm - GSA, Gym
- 11:30 - Ladies Guild Mtg., AR
- 6:30 pm - Finance Committee Mtg., CMR
- 6:30 pm - Bells Practice, Church
- 7:30 pm - Choir Practice, Church

Thursday, December 14

- 7:00 am - 5:00 pm - GSA, Msgr. Sullivan Field
- 7:00 am - 5:00 pm - GSA, Gym
- 7:00 pm - Epiphany Men's Club, AR
- Immediately following Mass, Christmas church cleaning

Friday, December 15

- 7:00 am - 5:00 pm - GSA, Msgr. Sullivan Field
- 7:00 am - 5:00 pm - GSA, Gym
- 3:30-6:30 pm - Dance, UH

Saturday, December 16

Sunday, December 17

- Immediately following Masses, Donut Sunday, Gym
- 9:00 am - Bible Study, CMR
- 10:30 am - Liturgy with Children, RBB

OUR OFFERING FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 2-3

Sunday Collection

General Fund \$5,860.25
General Fund Loose \$300.65
General Fund Online \$262.00
Total \$6,422.90

Christmas \$1,075.00
Christmas Flower \$285.00
Hurricane Relief \$20.00
Immaculate Conception... \$63.00
Kenrick Seminary \$57.00
Maintenance & Repair .. \$452.00
SVDP \$10.00
Solemnity \$63.00
Votive \$85.00
Tuition Assistance \$67.00 \$247.00(YTD)
Endowment Fund \$ \$29.00(YTD)



Pleas note our Advent & Christmas Mass Schedule for December 23, 24 & 25

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Saturday, December 23 5 PM
Sunday, December 24 8 & 10:30 AM

Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 24 5 & 10:00 PM (Choir 9:45)
Monday, December 25 8 & 10:30 AM

OUR DEARLY DEPARTED

Rest in Peace In your kindness, please pray for the repose of the soul of Lucy Lally. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, rest in peace.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 10

Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 [8]/2 Pt 3:8-14/Mk 1:1-8
Monday: Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [Is 35:4f]/Lk 5:17-26
Tuesday: Zec 2:14-17 or Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Jdt 13:18bcde, 19 [15:9d]/Lk 1:26-38 or Lk 1:39-47
Wednesday: Is 40:25-31/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8 and 10 [1]/Mt 11:28-30
Thursday: Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9, 10-11, 12-13ab [8]/Mt 11:11-15
Friday: Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [cf. Jn 8:12]/Mt 11:16-19
Saturday: Sir 48:1-4, 9-11/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/Mt 17:9a, 10-13
Next Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54 [Is 61:10b]/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE HOMEBOUND & SICK OF OUR PARISH

Korey Tacchi	Joan Huelsmann	Toni Berberich
Daniel Barr	Ethan Sonderman	Bob Metcalf
Jack McPherson	Sheryl McPherson	Nannette McPherson

PARISH COMMUNITY NEWS, NOTES & EVENTS



ST. VINCENT DEPAUL ADOPT A FAMILY FOR CHRISTMAS

Please consider adopting a family for Christmas. If you or someone you know is in need of assistance for the Christmas Holidays, please contact St. Vincent DePaul through the parish business office, 314-781-1199.

Ladies Guild News... Our monthly card social will be held on Monday, December 18th at 10:00 am in the Assumption Room. Please bring your lunch and (on request of Mary Ellen) some Christmas Cookies to share. We will provide coffee.

The regular December meeting will be our Christmas dinner on Wednesday, December 13th at 11:30 am in the Assumption Room. Reservations can be made by sending \$8 to Jan Holmes, 6225 Arsenal Street - 63139 or call 644-4299. We will be accepting money donations for St. Vincent DePaul at this time. Have a blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year! Marilyn-Nancy-Sue-Gloria



Christmas Cards There will be Christmas cards in the back of church to be sent to our shut-ins. If you would like to send a card or note select a card, address the envelope and place it in the basket provided on the table.

Names and addresses will be there too. We will provide the postage and mail the cards. Also, if you know someone that is not on the list you are welcome to add their name and address. Thank you.



SUITE SEATS FOR A SWEET CAUSE

Suite Seats for a Sweet Cause Support families choosing to make the loving, and often expensive, choice to grow their family through adoption AND get or give a chance to enjoy a 2018 Cardinals game from the Mercy Suite! Raffle winner receives 10 tickets in Suite 33 (along the 1st base line) at Busch Stadium for a 2018 Cardinals' Home Game, \$150 of food/drinks and one parking pass for a mutually agreed upon date. Made available through the generous donation of Mercy. All proceeds benefit the Archbishop Robert J. Carlson Adoption Fund. Great Holiday Gift! Raffle Tickets can be delivered in a festive gift envelope perfect for the person who has everything! For more information: <http://archstl.org/raffleforadoption> or 314.997.7576



Christmas Trees Boy Scout Troop 336 of St. Michael's Parish in Shrewsbury will be selling Christmas trees from their lot in the Mackenzie Pointe Shopping Center starting the Friday after Thanksgiving. Hours are from 6 to 9 pm Monday

through Friday and 9 am to 9 pm Saturday and Sunday. We will also be open from 9 AM to 9 PM on Black Friday. Your patronage is appreciated by our scouts.

We need your help! Please join us for our annual Christmas church cleaning on Thursday, December 14th immediately following the 8 am Mass. We will serve light refreshments in the assumption room immediately following. All are welcome to join.



Our Lady's Inn Maternity Homes is having their Annual Trivia Night - Saturday, January 20th at Chaminade College Prep School (425 S. Lindbergh). Doors open at 6:00 p.m. and trivia begins at 7:00 p.m. Cost is \$25 per person and \$200 for a table of ten. For more information or to register, visit www.ourladyinn.org or call Katrina at 314-736-1544.

Our Lady's Inn provides a loving home and an array of service supporting pregnant women and their children suffering with homelessness.

Benefit two organizations for the price of one!

This month, **December 2017**, the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood are hosting a **Gift Card Drive** to support their February 17, 2018 **Annual Dinner Auction**



Buy a gift card from **Epiphany certificate program** and help Epiphany and the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood at the same time.

Send donations to: Sisters of the Most Precious Blood
Mission Advancement Office
204 N. Main St. O'Fallon, MO 63366

EPIPHANY GIFT CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

Time is running out; place your Christmas gift order today!

Grocery Stores	% Earned	Denominations
Dierbergs	5%	\$25 \$100
LeGrand's	3%	\$10 \$20
Shop-n-Save	5%	\$10 \$25 \$100
Department Stores		
Target	2.5%	\$25 \$100
Walmart/Sam's Club	3%	\$25 \$100 \$250
Kohl's	5%	\$10 \$25 \$100
Restaurants 10% Earned for All		
Biggie's		\$25
Chris's		\$10
El Paisano's		\$10 \$20
Panera's		\$10 \$25
Joey B's		\$25
Michael's		\$25
Pietro's		\$10 \$25
Pharmacies		
CVS	6%	\$25 \$100
Walgreens	6%	\$25 \$100
Check out our limited supply of the following gift cards:		
Amazon (\$25)		Applebee's (\$25)
Bass Pro Shop (\$25)		Bath & Body (\$10)
Bed, Bath & Beyond (\$25)		
Burger King (\$10)		Chili's (\$25)
JC Penney (\$25)		Krispy Kreme (\$10)
O'Charley's (\$25)		
Starbucks (\$10-\$25)		Steak n' Shake (\$10)
Taco Bell (\$10)		TJ Maxx (\$25)